Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Sir, I think the ante-room before you get into the Diwan's room may be converted into a visitors' room. There are a number of chairs kept in the verandah. (A voice "How many"?) More than six.

The Hon'ble President took the Chair at 3-15 p.m.

The difficulties are more than exaggerated. A number of chairs are there. Certainly it will add dignity to the Secretariat to have a proper ante-room. I am at one with you there and also I think it is only right that whatever be the conditions, war conditions or other conditions, the Secretariat must be kept speck and span and most attractively and most beautifully and at least some varnish will be good and very usefully spent. I always thought that the only officer who has an eye for all these things is Mr. Mathew. His room is always very neat and tidy. I do not know how he manages it. As regards the other places, they are not as well kept, as it ought to be. That suggestion may be considered.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Sir, I also take this opportunity to say something about this matter. The whole trouble is due to the notion of the dignity of the Secretariat. The time-honoured notion of the dignity of the Secretariat has been to see no dignity in the people. They do not care for the dignity of the people. They do not consider the needs of the people. They think that the people will stand or squat somewhere in the verandah or under the tree. Therefore what is required is a revolution in the notion of dignity of the Secretariat. Unless you work that revolution there will be no change in this unhappy state of affairs. I had once moved a motion in this House to give seating arrangements in all public offices. The public offices are being run with the money of the people. Their comforts and their convenience should be attended to more carefully than those of their servants who are the officers there. Therefore my only request to the Government is that it is high time that they change their notion of dignity.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Secretry to Government):* Sir, it is conceded that we are very much short of space. This dearth of space has been felt for the last 8 or nine years. Ever since the portfolio of Joint Secretary to Government was created this trouble of dearth of space has been keenly felt. Somehow or other at times by borrowing a hall from the District Judge and by squeezing ourselves in the available rooms at other times, we used to manage. Now there is a proposal to build a hall to the east of the present main building either parallel to it or at right angles which will accommodate a good number of officers. The difficulty is on account of the extremely high cost of construction in these days. The usual tender rate now-a-days is 300 per cent above the normal rates. If we want a hall of that size under the normal schedule rates its estimated cost will be 18 to 20 thousand rupees and the present cost of construction will be 60 thousand rupees and that will be only for a single hall. It is this question of extra cost that has been keeping the Government back from building extra rooms to the Secretariat. If we have more rooms there will be no difficulty to allot one for the use of visitors. At present as pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Mattancheri we are using the verandah and also the room adjacent to the Diwan's room. It is not anything very beautiful but visitors come only very rarely and they have to wait there only for a few minutes. Therefore no one is very much particularly inconvenienced by the dearth of sumptuous arrangements in the vicinity. Of course Mr. Pettah stated it might be embarassing to wait outside for a few minutes when there are other visitors. It will be certainly desirable to have a room set apart exclusively for visitors. We will certainly consider this question. This morning I suggested to Mr. Pettah that I will ask the Chief Engineer about the feasibility of constructing a terrace connecting the ante room with the verandah. In that case the cars can go below and the top floor of it can be utilised for visitors. I do not know whether it will be possible. The Chief Engineer will be asked to submit proposals.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Cut motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Demand put and carried

11. Rs. 100 under "13-Registration—(S) P.C.R."

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 100 under "13 Registration—(s) P.C.R.". The amount provided in the budget has become insufficient and hence the necessity for this small grant. I request that the House may be pleased to grant the same.

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